Further examples of synthetic cationic polymers useful in forming the tie layers of the present invention include:

(i) a polyallylamine (PAH) homo- or copolymer, optionally comprising modifier units as described herein;

(ii) a polyethyleneimine (PEI) as discussed above;

(iii) a polyvinylamine homo- or copolymer, optionally comprising modifier units;

(iv) a poly(vinylbenzyl-tri-C_1-C_4-alkylammonium salt), for example a poly(vinylbenzyl-tri-methyl ammoniumchloride);

(v) a polymer of an aliphatic or araliphatic dihalide and an aliphatic N,N,N',N'-tetra-C_1-C_4-alkyl-alkylenediamine, for example a polymer of (a) propylene-1,3-dichloride or -dibromide or p-xylylene dichloride or dibromide and (b) N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-1,4-tetramethylene diamine;

(vi) a poly(vinylpyridin) or poly(vinylpyridinium salt) homo- or copolymer;

(vii) a poly (N,N-diallyl-N,N-di-C_1-C_4-alkyl-ammoniumhalide);

(viii) a homo- or copolymer of a quaternized di-C_1-C_4-alkyl-aminoethyl acrylate or methacrylate, for example a poly(2-hydroxy-3-methacryloylpropyltri-C_1-C_2-alkylammonium salt) homopolymer such as a poly(2-hydroxy-3-methacryloylpropyltri-methylammonium chloride), or a quaternized poly(2-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate or a quaternized poly(vinylpyrrolidone-co-2-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate);

(ix) POLYQUAD® as disclosed in EP-A-456,467; or

(x) a polyaminoamide (PAMAM), for example a linear PAMAM or a PAMAM dendrimer such as a amino-terminated Starbust™ PAMAM dendrimer (Aldrich).

B) Please twice amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 22 and ending at page 32, line 7 as follows:

Suitable modifier units of the polyallylamine (i) are, for example, of formula

(5),

wherein L is C_2-C_6-alkyl which is substituted by two or more same or different substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C_2-C_5-alkanoyloxy and C_2-C_5-alkylamino-carbonyloxy.

L may be linear C_3-C_6-alkyl, such as linear C_4-C_5-alkyl, or, more particularly, n-pentyl which is in each case substituted as defined above.

C) Please twice amend the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 16 and ending at page 33, line 7 as follows:

A particular embodiment relates to polyallyl amines comprising units of the above formula (5), wherein L is a radical of formula

(6),

wherein g is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, preferably 3 or 4 and in particular 4, each R* is independently hydrogen or a radical -C(O)-R_{29} or -C(O)-NH-R_{29}', and for R_{29} and R_{29}' the above meanings and preferences apply. L is even more preferred a radical of the above formula (6) wherein g is 3 or 4, in particular 4, and each group -OR* independently is hydroxy or hydroxy which is partly or completely acetylated, in particular hydroxy. Particular preferred radicals L are 1,2,3,4,5-pentahydroxy-n-pentyl or 1,2,3,4,5-pentahydroxy-n-pentyl wherein the hydroxy groups are partly or completely acetylated.

D) Please twice amend the paragraph bridging page 33 and page 34 as follows:

Suitable modifier units of the polyvinylamine (iii) are, for example, of formula

(5a),

wherein for L the above-given meanings and preferences apply.
A suitable polyvinylamine copolymer is, for example, a copolymer comprising vinylamine units and units derived from another hydrophilic comonomer, for example from acrylamide, N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, N-vinylpyrrolidone or the like.

E). Please amend the second paragraph on page 71, lines 11-22 as follows: